

## Draft Letter to Newspaper Editor

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Date

*Address Line*

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Dear *(insert name of newspaper editor)*:

In FY 2007, Virginia Adult Protective Services (APS) investigated over 13,000 reports of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. Sixty-five percent of these reports were substantiated. During May, in recognition of Adult Abuse Prevention Month, *(insert name of sponsors of the local public awareness campaign)* is conducting a campaign to inform our community about the abuse of vulnerable adults. We hope to bring the tragedy of adult abuse to the attention of our community.

There are many forms of adult abuse, including physical and mental abuse, neglect and self-neglect and financial exploitation. Abuse of elderly and disabled adults occurs in families and communities of all social, economic and racial backgrounds. In Virginia, APS investigates reports of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation and can arrange for a wide variety of services to stop the abuse and prevent further mistreatment.

If you or someone you know is being abused, neglected or exploited, call the local department of social services or the 24 hour toll-free APS hotline at 1-888-832-3858.

Sincerely,